(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Air facilities in Uttarakhand

†113. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the civil aviation facilities would be provided in Uttarakhand having a number of tourist spots situated in inaccessible areas on the line of other States *viz.* North-Eastern region and Jammu and Kashmir as well as in Nepal where such facilities have immensely contributed in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) At present, Dehradun is the only operational airport in Uttarakhand. Scheduled air services are available to/from Dehradun as per the following details:

Kingfisher Airlines

Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi ATR42 14 flights/week

Dehradun airport is suitable for operation of A-320 type of aircraft and Pantnagar airport is suitable for operation of ATR type of aircraft. Construction of new terminal building at Dehradun is likely to be completed by April, 2009.

At present Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL) is also providing helicopter services in Uttarakhand, PHHL provides connectivity to Kedarnath Dham during the season. PHHL has constructed a helipad at Phatta for helicopter services to Kedarnath and is also operating from Augustmuni for Kedarnath services. PHHL has constructed a hangar at Gauchar air field for helicopter services in Uttarakhand.

Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Losses incurred due to fog affected flights

†114. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is incurring huge losses due to cancellation and delay in flights because of fog;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to deal with this problem; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to do justice with passengers in such situation?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi